

Mother Lutchmi's Light has reached into the Darkness, Tuesday the 17th Oct/2017.

(The Darkness here being used in the Spiritual context, not the scientific context of the absence of light.)

To add insult to injury, the person making prehistoric, offensive, gender insensitive and spiritually ignorant statements, supported by female colleagues, comparing women to a golf course, (as a reason for his government's allocation of funds to mow a golf course), which has to be mowed daily, otherwise she turns into pasture, was carded to give the feature address at the closing ceremony of Mother Lutchmi's Divali Celebration here, on Tuesday the 17th day of October 2017.

The light reached this darkness and he chooses not to attend. Possibly, he had no intention to apologize to the thousands of female devotees and the men who love them, of this revered Goddess of light and did not want the embarrassment of a massive walkout, had he attended and not apologized.

In light of this more than once, assault on the character of our womenfolk, who make up almost half of our population, from persons in leadership positions in our society, both male and female, I have started an inquiry into getting my daughter and grandson into Canada, hopefully, for a short time.

My brother, 4 sisters and dozens of nephews and nieces, now reside there. As an unmarried brother, I going will not be a problem, according to their immigration laws, but too much work still has to be done here, to concretize all that has already been done. With them safely away, more Independence will be available to be patriotic, in spite of the painful loss of their presence.

In addition, money is owed to me from the EBC as a deposit refund from my success in the last Local Government Election, my gratuity after serving as the Personal Assistant to a Minister of Government for 4 years and 4 months, is still not paid after more than 3 years, my retirement benefits has not been finalized after 4 years, from the NIB, who boast about their 15 Billion dollar asset base.

Such monies will allow me to continue my intense philanthropic work in peace, irregardless of bad government behaviour and destructive sustainable development practices.

To spend 3 Million dollars to take care of one golf course grounds, to give pleasure to a private, privileged few,

- 1 when pensioners reaching 65 years and short a few requisite contributions, are given some money to live for less than 5 years, although their past lifestyles can give them 20 years, in a continuous taxing leadership,
- 2 when monies, in the Billions, spent annually to maintain prison and hospital populations, with no sustainable plan to reduce that gradually, with initiatives, like an Infant to Toddler Partnership Programme,
- 3 when our archaic GDP system only records valuable work from the time you enter the work force and demit it at 60 years,

- 4 when Local Government was emasculated in 2009 with the Property Tax Act, at Section V and no attempts are being made to give teeth for Councils and Councillors to serve effectively, Citizens, Burgesses and Electors, the signs of growing dissatisfaction is alarming, for those of us who stay close to the ground, **examples given below**.
- 5 When many who have served Ministers cannot get their gratuity after many years.
- 6 When retirees are not considered to be worthy of pensions if they are short of the requisite contributions, although the recording system at NIB has some questions to be answered.

Just last week Saturday, an event hosted by the Disaster Management Committee of the Diego Martin Regional Corporation, in conjunction with the ODPM, scheduled from 10 am to 6 pm, ended at 12 noon. There was a desperate rush for first aid kits, mosquito nets etc., although it was said that more can be made available. Even the food collected to go to Dominica was taken. An obvious sign of desperation, from the needy in the Region.

One Village Council was informed that the promised Ham Curing Christmas Course, to start next month has been cancelled by the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts, due to budgetary constraints, a mere fifteen hundred dollars, but 3 million dollars is allocated for mowing a golf course.

My daughter, a qualified Cosmetologist, for over 8 years now, with 5 Certificates in Nail Technology, functioning as a Sector Specialist, will have to give up her home base of 32 years, to start anew in another country, because of a male and female leadership, which considers her, requiring daily mowing to survive and taxing her left, right and center, every opportunity they get, impinging on the care for her son whose father died, via violence and a grandfather devoting his life to their care, living on a pension, being denied his due money from State agencies, either via negligence, incompetence or possible fraud, in one instance.

In my humble view, the UNC Party has 49.5 percent of Local Government control and this powerful opportunity can be used to bring more light to darkness, in showing what we can do when we are not in Central Government, managing our Boroughs and Regional Corporations, with higher levels of efficiency.

I have been in the Diego Martin Regional Corporation for 9 months now, attending the monthly Statutory Council Meetings, as an Elector of the Region, with a legal right to so do, by Act of 1990 and I have seen ways to achieve success, even without Central Government assistance.

Signed.

Donald D. Berment, Specialist HSD/NGA/DVC.

Housing and Settlement Development/Natural Growth Architect/Domestic Violence Coordinator.